CHAPTER 7 『TSUBAME GIRLS' ACADEMY'S TABLE TENNIS CLUB』

TSUKINOWA KUMAMI.
TSUBAME GIRLS' ACADEMY, SECOND YEAR,
SHE USED TO BE A MEMBER IN OUR CLUB.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, EVERYONE.
HI, GUYS! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
LONG TIME NO SEE FRILL PANTIES
UHYOO, IT'S KUMAMIN! LONG TIME NO SEE!

IT'S NICE TO SEE THE SENIORS AFTER SO LONG TOO
IS YOUR ANKLE FINE NOW, KIRUKA-SENPAI?
YEAH, COMPL-ETELY!
AND MUNE-MUNE-SENPAI, I SEE YOUR POWERFUL BOOBS ARE STILL THE SAME
POWERFUL BOOBS?!
A FORMER TEAMMATE?
IF I REMEM-BER CORRECTLY, TSUBAME ACADEMY WAS A FAVORITE FOR THE CHAMPION-SHIP, AND WE'LL HAVE TO FACE THEM IN THE DISTRICT PRELIMINARIES.
SO THEY'RE THE RIVAL SCHOOL YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?!
N-no you can't! And why are you giving her permis-sion?!
Just a little bit
May I touch them?
THIS GIRL NOT LONG BEFORE YOU ARRIVED,
SHE TRANS-FERRED TO TSUBAME ACADEMY
OH, TO BE MORE PRECISE,
SHE LEFT SUZUME-GAHARA
FOR GREENER PAS-TURES
EH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE,
A-CHAN.
...
LONG TIME NO SEE
A-chan?!
YOU LOOK AS SPIRITED AS EVER, TOO
WELL, IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER, I GUESS THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
WHO'S THAT? A FIRST YEAR?
SHE TRANSFERRED IN THIS SPRING. IT WAS ALMOST LIKE SHE CAME IN TO REPLACE YOU.
IS THAT SO?

I managed to introduce myself all right!
N-NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M TSUMU-JIKAZE KOYORI.
I'M TSUKI-NOWA KUMAMI!
HEY, A-CHAN, THIS GIRL.
HEY!
クマーッ!!
IT'S BEEN AGES! LEMME BUNBUN YOUR HAIR BUNS!
KUMA-MIN!!
WAIT, HANA-CHAN...
BUN-BUN!
A-CHAN AND I ARE KINDA IN THE MIDDLE OF A
BUN-BUN!
UM...

YA LITTLE PIECE OF SHIT!!
THAT TICKLES!
GET YER FILTHY HANDS OFF OF HER!
UHYO ~!!
IT'S BEEN AGES, BUT HERE IT IS!
KUMA-MIN'S VENTRILOQUY!
DO IT AGAIN! DO IT AGAIN!
HE HE! SO YA FIDDLIN' WITH HER BUNS 'CAUSE YOU WANTED LIP SERVICE?
WELL, AIN'T YOU A CRAFTY LITTLE PUNK?!
THAT'S THE STUFF!! I LOVE YOUR VENTRILOQUY!

HEEHEE IT SURE IS POPULAR.
WELL, IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING
THIS WASHBOARD HAS GOING FOR HER!!
SLAP
OW!
LEAVE MY CHEST OUT OF IT, KUMANOSUKE-SAN.
ID HURDZ! (IT HURTS!)
ANYSHING BUD DIZ! (ANYTHING BUT THIS!)
SHE EVEN MAKES IT SOUND LIKE HIS MOUTH IS BEING STRETCHED...
That's some refined art.
WOW! KUMAMI-SAN IS AMAZING!
KUMAMIN'S VENTRILOQUY IS UNSURPASSED!!
TOP CLASS
THE BEST IN JAPAN!
YOU'RE AWESOME, KUMA-CHAN!
Uhyoo!
I-IT'S LIKE THE BEAR REALLY IS TALKING!!
...!
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SHE CAN'T DO IT WHEN SHE'S FLUSTERED I SEE THAT HASN'T CHANGED EITHER.
Y-YO!
Y-YOU'RE MAKIN' ME BLUSH, GOD DAMNIT!
SURELY YOU DIDN'T COME JUST TO SHOW OFF YOUR VENTRILOQUY
YOU SAID YOU DECIDED TO DROP BY 'CAUSE YOU HAD SOME OTHER BUSINESS AROUND HERE BUT,
SO, WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?
I JUST DROPPED BY 'CAUSE I WANTED TO SEE EVERYBODY!
THAT'S IT, REALLY!
BUT, WELL
IF I HAD TO SAY.

I GUESS IT WAS MOSTLY TO SEE YOU,
A-CHAN
!!!
HU HU
HUHUHU... IT'S TIME TO RECHARGE ON VITAMIN AGARI!

There there, you can't win every day
prickle prickle
JE-
!!?
HANA-CHAN IS KIND OF PRICKLY SO I'LL PASS.
Your hair I mean.
UHYOO, KUMAMIN IS ON FIRE!
ALRIGHT, GIMME SOME OF THAT HUG TOO!!
J-J-JE-

WHAT?
AND HERE I THOUGHT...
JEEZ, WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
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OOF
IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE, AND I MISSED YOU.
Y-YOU CAME HERE JUST FOR THIS?

YOU CAME HERE TO
SETTLE THE SCORE FROM BACK THEN.
THE SCORE FROM BACK THEN?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU,
I WON'T PLAY YOU ANYMORE
GRAB
AND WHY IS THAT? GIVE ME A REASON!

I'M SORRY.
—...!
LET'S GO, KUMA-NOSUKE -SAN.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
WAIT, KUMA-MI!
RIGHT THEY'RE PROBABLY EXHAUSTED FROM THE CAMP. WE SHOULDN'T HOLD THEM SO LONG.
YOU'VE GOT A NICE DOSE OF VITAMIN AGARI AL-READY, WE'VE NO MORE BUSINESS HERE!!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE, KUMA-MI!

Polite.
TSUBAME GIRLS' ACADEMY, WHERE THAT GIRL ATTENDS, IS ONE OF THOSE SCHOOLS FOR RICH GIRLS.
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LURED?!
KUMAMI WAS LURED BY THE CAPTAIN AT TSUBAME.
THAT'S HOW SHE ENDED UP THERE.
SHE'S APPARENTLY THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD THERE
THEY SAY HER FAMILY RUNS LOADS OF TABLE TENNIS HALLS.

SO SHE RECRUITS PLAYERS REGARDLESS OF THEIR SCHOOL OR GRADE...
AND DOES WHATEVER SHE WANTS WITH THEM, OR SO THEY SAY.
Re-really?
WELL WE DON'T REALLY KNOW THE DETAILS, EITHER.
AFTER ALL, SHE LEFT SO SUDDENLY.
YOU MENTIONED SETTLING A SCORE FROM THE PAST. WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
...
ON THE DAY KUMAMI LEFT,
I ASKED HER TO PLAY ME IN A FAREWELL MATCH.
BUT SHE RE-FUSED
WE WENT OUR SEPA-RATE WAYS WITHOUT EVER PLAYING THAT GAME.

SHE STOPPED PLAYING ME COMPLETELY.
IT WASN'T JUST THAT.
ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE SHE LEFT,
...
SO I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE SHE SHOWED UP TODAY
BECAUSE SHE FELT LIKE PLAYING ME NOW.
I MEAN, YOU GET IT, RIGHT?!
WE'RE TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS!! ISN'T IT ONLY RIGHT TO CONVERSE USING TABLE TENNIS?
WHEN WE MEET WE HAVE TO PLAY! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KOYORI?!
Y-YEAH !!
SHE'S LIKE A HOT BLOODED GANG LEADER!!
LIKE "WE'LL USE OUR FISTS TO TALK"?
BUT EVEN SO...

SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO SEE ME, BUT SHE DIDN'T WANT TO PLAY ME?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

女学園
TSUBAME GIRLS' ACADEMY
TABLE TENNIS CLUB
FASTER!
FRONT!
FRONT! FRONT!
PANT
PANT

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TSUBAME GIRLS' ACADEMY
TABLE TENNIS CLUB FIRST YEAR
SAKIGAKE NEMURI
ねむーん
LOLI-SENPAI
I'M TIRED
I FEEL HEAVY
I WANNA SLEEP
TRAINING IS SUCH A PAIN
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RI!
JUST WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO REMEMBER MY NAME CORRECTLY?
IT'S IRORI-SENPAI!
TSUSAME GIRLS' ACADEMY TABLE TENNIS CLUB THIRD YEAR
IROHANI IRORI
I'M HERE!
ろりん☆
HUH
I HEAR A VOICE BUT I DON'T SEE ANYONE
HERE IT IS! LOLI-SENPAI'S SPECIAL, LOLI SOBAT!
すか
ろりん☆
IT'S ROLLING SOBAT!
I'M RIGHT HERE! YOU WERE JUST TALKING TO ME A SECOND AGO!

HEY,
DON'T BULLY IRORI TOO MUCH, SHE'LL START TO CRY AGAIN.
TSURUME GIRLS' ACADEMY TABLE TENNIS CLUB THIRD YEAR
HOUJOU HOMURA
ROGER THAT HOMURA-SENPAI
I'M ALREADY ON THE VERGE OF TEARS! WAIT, WHAT'S WITH THAT COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
SHE'S MY SENIOR.
SO AM I!

HEY! HEY! HEY! HEY!
PAT
PAT
WAAAH!
THOSE TWO ARE GETTING ALONG REALLY WELL!
TSURUME GIRLS' ACADEMY TABLE TENNIS CLUB THIRD YEAR
FUJINOMIYA FUBUKI
DOES IT LOOK LIKE THAT TO YOU?
I don't see it.

THIS CLAMOR, WAS THE REPRESENTATIVE DECIDED?
OH RIGHT, TODAY WAS THE DAY OF THE MATCH TO SETTLE THE LAST MEMBER OF THE TOURNAMENT TEAM.
SO THAT GIRL WON AFTER ALL,
AS EXPECTED FROM THE GIRL THE CAPTAIN TOOK IN.
3
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HE
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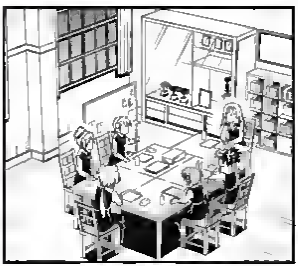
HE

YOU'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR TWO MONTHS AND YOU ALREADY WON A REGULAR SEAT
THAT'S AMAZING, KUMAMI-CHAN!
IF WE'RE SAYING OUR PRAISES ...
I STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN
SLAP
OW!
HE! WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
WAIT A SECOND!
NEMURI-CHAN ALSO SUDDENLY WON A REGULAR PLACE DESPITE BEING A FIRST YEAR.
THEY SAY HOMURA-SENPAI AND FUBUKI-SENPAI HAVE THE BEST DOUBLES PERFORMANCE HERE IN TEN YEARS.

YOU LITTLE CUTIE PIE!
WHAT'S WITH THAT REPLY?!
IRORI-SENPAI IS...
VERY CHARMING!
...
WHAT ABOUT ME?
HEY!
I'M THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO TEASE LOLI-SENPAI.
KUMAMI-SENPAI,
Table Tennis Club Meeting Room
CAPTAIN, THE REGULAR MEMBERS ARE ALL HERE.
WE CAN BEGIN WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.
Lolia!
It's Iorin!

VERY WELL.
SHALL WE BEGIN?
TSUBAME GIRLS' ACADEMY TABLE TENNIS CLUB THIRD YEAR CAPTAIN
KAGURAZAKA KOHIME



BUT WE BEAT THEM LAST TIME, RIGHT?
ARE THEY REALLY GONNA BE SUCH A PROBLEM?
THE DIFFICULT PART IS GOING TO BE GETTING PAST SUZUMEGAHARA IF WE WANT TO WIN THE PRELIMINARIES WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED
LET'S SEE,
THOSE ARE GOING TO BE OUR STRATEGIES AGAINST THE SCHOOLS COMING UP IN THE DISTRICT PRELIMINARIES.
THAT CAN'T BE! AGAINST NATIONAL LEVEL MOZUYAMA?
YES, THIS YEAR WE NEED TO BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL THAN USUAL WITH THEM
I ALSO HEARD THEY WON AGAINST MOZUYAMA IN A PRACTICE MATCH.
LAST TIME THEY DIDN'T HAVE CAPTAIN USHIRODE THEIR POWER WAS HALVED.
...!
I'M NOT CONCERNED IN THE SLIGHTEST.
...

WITH PERFECT COMBINATION IN TABLE TENNIS, WORTHY OF ADMIRATION EVEN.
THE ABILITY TO ADAPT TO CIRCUM-STANCES,
WE HAVE ATHLETES WITH NIMBLE FOOTWORK, COMPOSED GAME SET UP,
TSUBAME ACADEMY'S CLUB MEMBERS ALL HAVE THE STRONG SPIRIT TO GET THEM OUT OF ANY HARD SITUATION WITH THEIR OWN TABLE TENNIS.
OUR TEAM IS CAPABLE OF GUIDING TSUBAME TO VICTORY.
I HAVE NO DOUBT

LET'S DO THIS!
WE WON'T LOSE NO MATTER WHAT!
WE'RE STRONG!
HER WORDS CHANGED THE ATMOSPHERE COMPLETELY
THAT'S WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT YOU, CAPTAIN.
SO LET'S END THE MEETING HERE.
KUMAMI-SAN,
COULD YOU STAY FOR A BIT LONGER?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OKAY.

I HEARD YOU PAID SUZUME-GAHARA A VISIT
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YES, IT WAS GREAT SEEING EVERYONE AFTER SO LONG
THEY'RE ALL AS LIVELY AS EVER
A-CHAN AS WELL...
DO YOU REGRET COMING HERE?
NOT AT ALL!
EVERYONE HERE IS SO KIND, THE ACADEMY IS VERY FUN AS WELL, AND THE UNIFORM IS WONDER-FUL.
I REALLY AM GLAD THAT I CAME HERE!
...
AND I TOLD YOU WHEN YOU TOOK ME IN, DIDN'T I?

I HAD TO LEAVE.
IF I HAD STAYED WITH A-CHAN ANY LONGER,
THEN I...
I WOULD HAVE PROBABLY ENDED UP
DESTROY-ING HER.

WHO KNOWS ABOUT MY SECRET.
...
YES,
ONEE -SAMA.
I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU,
KUMAMI.
YOU'RE THE GREATEST PLAYER I FOUND.
ALSO,
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS WORLD

LET'S FOCUS AND PRACTICE, EVERYONE!
AT LAST, DISTRICT PRELIMINARIES ARE COMING NEXT WEEK
YES!
SORRY.
SO YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ME.

AT THE PRELIMINARIES!
THEN OUR FIGHT WILL BE
I WANT TO PLAY TABLE TENNIS
WITH YOU!
IF WE WANT TO WIN, WE'LL INEVITABLY HAVE TO GO TROUGH TSUBAME.
WE CAN JUST PLAY EACH OTHER THEN!

GOOD, WHAT A PROMISING TEAM!
I CAN'T WAIT.
IT'S TIME TO SHOW THEM WHAT WE'RE MADE OF, HOKUTO.
YEAH!
KOYORI, LET'S WIN THIS!
YEAH!
TAP
LET'S MAKE IT THE BEST SUMMER EVER! I WANT NO REGRETS!
...
THIS IS GOING TO BE OUR LAST TOURNA-MENT.
FINALLY, IT BEGINS.

LIKE SCORCHING HEAT,
BURNING HOT,
THIS IS OUR BATTLE!
MY HEART'S ABOUT TO BURST!
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